

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

REGARDING PREVENTION PROGRAMMING IN VIRGINIA

This Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is made and entered into between the Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP) and members of the GOSAP Collaborative whose membership is composed of key leadership representatives from state agencies and organizations responsible for prevention programming throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Consistent with its statutory responsibilities, the GOSAP has provided leadership, opportunity and an environment to further strengthen Virginia's prevention infrastructure and to ensure that prevention efforts are more unified, more collaborative and more evidence-based. The GOSAP Collaborative serves as a primary vehicle for prevention system planning and collaborative decision-making among member agencies.

Purpose

The purpose of this MOA is to provide a framework for continued cooperation between the Governor's Office, acting through GOSAP, and state agencies and organizations responsible for prevention programming.

Background

Members of the GOSAP Collaborative share common interests in the prevention of youth substance abuse and related problem behaviors. Each organization represented in the Collaborative has prescribed prevention responsibilities and unique competencies through which it addresses these common interests. Members recognize that, through strategic collaboration, they can capitalize on the individual strengths of each organization to achieve goals and objectives set forth in Virginia's Substance Abuse Prevention Plan.

Reflecting their common interests, members of the GOSAP Collaborative have established the following mission and goals:

Mission

The GOSAP Collaborative will preserve and enhance Virginia's exemplary national leadership in the area of positive youth development by promoting and facilitating wider use of model programs, disseminating best practice solutions and supporting up-to-date training and information opportunities for prevention professionals statewide.

Goal 1. To model, based upon collaborative successes achieved at the state level, the benefits of wider collaboration within and among every level of youth prevention activity ongoing within Virginia.

Goal 2. To sponsor statewide capacity-building training events that will bring together youth substance abuse and violence prevention coalitions, experts, and providers from all governmental and agency levels for professional networking and for learning directly from those who are most successful in the various youth prevention fields.

Goal 3. To publicly recognize the collective and personal achievements of organizations and individuals who exemplify the best attributes of Virginia's prevention system and practices, as well as those who have made notable contributions toward positive prevention outcomes that directly benefit children and adolescents.

Further, the GOSAP Collaborative has provided leadership in the development of tangible resources that support Virginia's unified, collaborative and evidence-based approach to prevention, including a guide to prevention terminology, a Community Profile Data Base that will provide community prevention planners with uniform, comparable data for use in assessing local needs, more uniform grant applications, a system for monitoring progress toward definable outcomes, and a Web site that serves as a clearinghouse for information about prevention in Virginia.

Statement of Agreement

Having demonstrated common interests and having provided leadership in the development of tangible resources, members of the GOSAP Collaborative hereby agree to continue to support Virginia's unified, collaborative and evidence-based approach to prevention by:

- Participating in meetings and projects of the GOSAP Collaborative;
- Regularly sharing information of interest to Virginia's prevention community (e.g., training events; new programs, services and/or resources; funding opportunities) through postings on the GOSAP Web site; and
- Supporting the Community Profile Data Base by providing social indicator and program data already routinely collected by respective agencies/organizations.

A Model for Prevention Programming

As a cornerstone of the more unified, collaborative and evidence-based approach to prevention being undertaken in Virginia, members of the GOSAP Collaborative agree in principle to a model for prevention programming that includes the following elements:

- Comprehensive community prevention needs assessments using relevant objective data;
- Measurable, results-oriented goals and objectives;
- Use of evidence-based programs and approaches to address local needs;
- Fidelity in the implementation of evidence-based programs and approaches;
- Collaboration and communication among prevention agencies and organizations in the planning and strategic implementation of programs and services;
- Planning for sustaining effective programs/projects beyond initial grant funding periods;
- Evaluation designed to document implementation and measure outcomes; and
- Consumer involvement in program/project planning, implementation and evaluation.

Standards for the Management of Prevention Grants

A primary approach to achieving a more unified and evidence-based approach to prevention is the adoption of "best practice" standards for the management of prevention grants. In their management of competitive and non-competitive grants programs that fund many types of prevention initiatives throughout the Commonwealth, GOSAP Collaborative members agree to promote the following standards:

- Application processes should establish clear expectations for grantees, support evidence-based programming and ensure accountability for outcomes.
- Requirements for grantees should be consistent with evidence-based prevention principles.
- The advancement of effective prevention programming requires adherence to evidence-based prevention principles and support for activities that strengthen the capacity of grantees.
- Requirements for greater accountability should be accompanied by high quality training and technical assistance that build grantee capacity to evaluate both fidelity of implementation and outcomes using appropriate measures.
- Cross-site evaluation using common data elements should become the norm for prevention grants programs in Virginia.

Duration and Review of Agreement

It is mutually agreed that:

1. This MOA is not intended to form a legal relationship and does not affect or alter existing rights and obligations between the parties and other agencies, organizations or individuals;
2. This MOA does not obligate any funds;
3. GOSAP Collaborative members will review implementation of this MOA at least once annually and recommend any appropriate modifications;
4. This agreement shall become effective upon signing by authorized officials from GOSAP Collaborative member agencies and organizations; and
5. This agreement may be modified upon signing by authorized officials from GOSAP Collaborative member agencies and organizations.

Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention

Murphy P. Hamm
Signed

Director
Title

9 September 2005
Date

Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control

Lennon E. Davis
Signed

Chairman
Title

31 August 2005
Date

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

Harold Cork
Signed

Director
Title

19 August 2005
Date

Virginia Department of Education

Jo Lynne DeMary
Signed

State Superintendent
Title

1 August 2005
Date

Virginia Department of Fire Programs

Rubey W. Hyde, Jr. Executive Director 28 July 2005
Signed Title Date

Virginia Department of Health

Paul B. Shener State Health Commissioner 29 May 2005
Signed Title Date

Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

Barry Her Director 7 September 2005
Signed Title Date

Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services

James Reinhard Commissioner 22 August 2005
Signed Title Date

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

AB Hunt Commissioner 24 August 2005
Signed Title Date

Virginia Department of Social Services

Anthony Conner Jr Commissioner 24 August 2005
Signed Title Date

Virginia Department of State Police

W. H. Hef Superintendent 2 August 2005
Signed Title Date

Virginia National Guard

Charles Williams Adjutant General 22 September 2005
Signed Title Date

Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation

Marty H. Kilgore Executive Director 27 July 2005
Signed Title Date